

ALTERNATE CHANNEL FOR CARRYING SELECTED MESSAGE TYPES

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In an illustrative embodiment of the present invention, a channel is allocated to carry messages from each of multiple subscriber units to a base station. Selected
5 messages generated by a subscriber unit that would otherwise be transmitted over an assigned reverse link traffic channel are instead encoded and transmitted to the base station over a shared reverse link channel. Preferably, the shared reverse link channel is time-slotted and each subscriber unit transmits information to the base station in an assigned time slot so that the base station receiving the messages can identify from
10 which subscriber unit a message is sent. Certain bits in a time slot of the shared channel as set by a subscriber unit can be used to communicate a particular message to the base station. For instance, a single bit that is transmitted in a time slot can be encoded to transmit a substitute message from one of the multiple subscriber units to a base station, where the setting of the bit itself indicates a message type.